

Getting Up When You're Knocked Down, Part 5 - 1 Corinthians 4:5 – August 17th, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part five of a series I've titled, "Getting Up When You're Knocked Down."
- What we've seen thus far, and what we're about to see shortly are practical ways in which to endure and persevere in the face of adversity.
- Perhaps better said, Paul is revealing to us practical nuts and bolts ways to keep getting back up no matter what or who knocks you down.

1. Maintain a servant's humility (Verse 1)

- Here Paul says, first and foremost, men should regard us and know us by our humility as servants, or under-rowers, in the lowest position.

2. Remain faithful as a steward (Verse 2)

- Paul takes it a step further saying that in addition to our being known as humble servants, we should also be proven as faithful stewards.

3. Don't let destructive criticism take you down (Verse 3a)

- v3a Paul didn't let the criticism and unfair judgment of these carnal Corinthians affect him. He cared very little what they thought about him.

4. Don't let self-condemnation keep you down (Verse 3b)

- v3b Paul then goes on to say that in addition to others criticizing and judging him he won't even allow himself to criticize and judge himself.

5. Give it to and leave it with the Lord to judge (Verse 4)

- v4 Paul gives us the reason as to why his conscience is clear saying it's the Lord who judges him, however, that doesn't make him innocent.

6. Wait for and look to the Lord's return (Verse 5a)

(5a) Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

- v5a Paul says judge nothing just wait till the Lord comes to bring to light what's hidden in darkness and expose the motives of men's hearts.
- What Paul is saying here is that waiting for and looking to the appointed time when the Lord comes and settles the score in turn settles us.
- In other words, the time is coming soon and very soon when the judge of all the earth will have the final word concerning man's motivations.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that the exposing of the motives of men's hearts sort of goes both ways.
- By that I mean the pure motives of men's hearts in addition to the evil motives of men's hearts will be brought to light when the Lord comes.
- I believe destination is the determination of our motivation, and as such, heaven becomes not only our destination, it's also our motivation.

- The more heavenly minded I am, the more earthly good it will be until the Lord comes because I view this life through the lens of the next.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest the degree in which I'm able to view this life through the lens of the next determines my perseverance.
- My perseverance through the adversity I'm the recipient of here on earth, will be proportionate to that which I know awaits me in heaven.

7. Wait for the look to the Lord's reward (Verse 5b)

(5b) At that time each will receive his praise from God.

- v5b Paul says that at the appointed time when the Lord comes and brings to light what's hidden in darkness, we'll receive praise from Him.
- What Paul is saying here in the last part of verse five is that we would all do well to hang in there, and keep pressing on to what's in store.
- Namely, wait for and look to that day when we receive our praise from the Lord, and the rewards and crowns for our service to the Lord.

- It's for this reason the scriptures are replete with exhortations to store up treasures in heaven as opposed to laying them up here on earth.
- I never tire of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus preached on this very topic of refocusing our eyes on the heavenly rewards that await us.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for the remainder of today's sermon as we revisit what's arguably the greatest sermon the Savior ever preached.

Matthew 6:19-34 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (22) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. (23) But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (24) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (25) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? (26) Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (27) Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (28) And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. (29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. (30) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- I'll bring it to a close by sharing four practical ways from this passage to not be taken down or kept down by the cares and affairs of this life.

1. Transfer your Treasures (Verses 19-21) - The more treasure we have here the more we worry about what happens to our treasure here.

2. Focus on your Father (Verses 22-24) - Not only will our hearts be where our treasure is, but our eyes will be where our God is as well.
- It's interesting, Jesus identifies our goods, (two treasures), our goals, (two visions), and our god's, (two masters), but we cannot serve two.

3. Value your Value (Verses 25-32) - The reason our heavenly Father will provide for us is because of the infinite value He places on us.
- If our Father feeds and clothes birds and flowers which are infinitely less valuable than us then how much more will He feed and clothe us.

4. Prioritize God's Promises (Verses 33-34) - If we prioritize His kingdom and righteousness first, then all these things will be given to us.